

Derek Simmonds

Growing up near Woking, most Saturdays you'd have found me either by the tree opposite the Odeon or at the Tin Bridges (some call them the Twin Bridges) the other side of the station. That's where I developed a love of steam and all things Southern.

Joining the Post Office as an apprentice, I qualified as an electrical engineer although much of my practical experience was in mechanical engineering, specialising in bulk mail handling. On the successful completion of a major parcel automation project at Coventry, I left Parcelforce when I was Head of Engineering after 33, mostly happy, years having been offered and happily accepting early retirement.

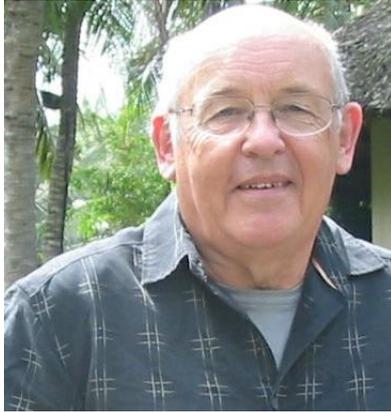
A qualified health & safety practitioner, I've had papers published by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

After 8 years as a self-employed project manager of small building developments both domestic and commercial, my wife and I moved back south to Guildford for personal reasons in 2010. I joined the MHR in 2011 and managed 'Mind the Gap,' the MHR's HLF supported apprenticeship scheme to its conclusion 6 years later. Many of the apprentices recruited under 'Mind the Gap' and subsequent initiatives are still on the railway.

A MHRPS Trustee for 6 years, I have been heavily involved in the Canadian Pacific project and jointly wrote the successful HLF application. I run PTS courses and have trained around 500 people thus far, with many being renewals. I am also a TTI.

I have produced both the Legacy Leaflet and the more recent Volunteer/Membership leaflet. I have also led fund raising for such things as the Queen Mary Brake, 75079 tender, 73096 Purchase, Ropley workshop equipment and various CanPac related appeals amongst others.

Married with 3 grown up children and 9 grandchildren, I am Chair of Trustees for another small charity.



Robert (Rob) Latham C. Eng MIET

Awarded degree in Electrical Engineering at University of Leeds 1964

Became Member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology (formerly Institute of Electrical Engineers) leading to becoming a Chartered Engineer.

Career specialising in communications particularly development of VHF and UHF radio equipment and systems for Racal. Railway projects during my career include communication systems design for Channel Tunnel Rail Link, Docklands Light Railway and Crossrail.

Since joining Mid Hants in 1977 I have worked in various departments. I donated the transport costs for the Queen Mary brake van from Llangollen to Mid Hants and obtained the donation of the gazebo for the Society through the generous offices of Flying Scotsman Services.

As Membership Director I am reviewing member benefits and investigating ways to attract and retain members and involved in resolving issues with membership administration.

I'm currently Chair and Editor of Thames Valley Regional Group and Editor for Marlow Maidenhead Passenger Association.